

20th of March, 1815. I almost fancy I tun dreaming when I look back on tho miraculous incapacity of the persons who were then at the head of our rovomment. The emigrants, who, as it has been truly said, had neither learned nor forgotten anything, came back with all the absurd pretensions of Coblenz. Their silly vanity reminded one of a character in one of Voltaire's novels who is continually saying, "*Un hottine, connne, M<*if*" These people were so engrossed with their pretended merit that they were blind to everything else. They not only disregarded tho wishes and the wants of France, which in overthrowing the Empire hoped to regain liberty, but they disregarded every warning they had received.¹ I recollect one circumstance which was well calculated to excite suspicion. Prince Eugene proposed going to the waters of Plombieres to join his sister Itortense. The horses, the carriages, and one of the 'Prince's *aides de camp* had already arrived at Plombieres, and his residence was prepared | but he did not go. Kugene had, no doubt, received intimation of his sister's intrigues with some of the individuals of the* late Oourt of Napoleon who were then at the waters, and as he bad determined to reside quietly at the (Vnirt of his father-in-law, without meddling with public

any htwt, Talleyrand's fom/*w>ffc*wrv>, vol. i, pp 1HO, 100, etc, AB tho Duke *»f WtllhiKton, said, tin* tiling wanted above all others was a Ministry. "Tinware Ministers, tmt no Ministry" (Talleyrand's (*Correspondence*, vol. H, » 2). Hw* also ttrut/mtt, vol. ii, pp. 2<J4, 2(55 for tlo position takon up by Talleyrand whftti Im did rotrnri ** He started an If from a settled point, from the assumption that, after his departure for tho Congress of Vienna the (invernmeni had K»»ik» from otu^ f»»ly to another." Ho ovon told tho (lointo d'Artuis, lu full t'njiH'il, ** HincH* his RoyU lh^ hn^ HM lias placod tho dlsous-sitni on that fautin^, Moimkntr luw don« à gr»"-ut deal of harm."

* (>>Hl of th<* ways in whioh th*<i Itoirhi>nH di^uHtcnl* tho army wan tho iniitor in whirh ntillitary rank vviw givt5n to fonnor *dtMt/rtfa* who Inul novor Ki*rviMI, *»r who bad only wrvt'd in tin* lowor ranks. IJoth Marinont and Vilrolli'H put this down to the terror of Louis XVIIH. in a<lopiin^ uniform for *Inn* own dnwM hmifad of th* former dross-oout. Kvory (-ourtier want< uniform f and us short hair wUH H!H<> udoptod, thcsy njuuircd opatolotn, an<1 iiaiiiiiHotti^ l'pntilots. For th< offomm* thus g:iv<*n to tho ol<l offcorH woe A/w-innnlt tomo'vii, p. 4<>; rifro//** t*»ui< L p. 20.1; and *Pitymaiftre*, p. 172. Another vory «ora jMiint, w»H cltanging UK* numbw of th< ro^imonts, simply for UK* Iovi» of uniformity, hncutiMu sottio of th<> numbori had (Usanpoarud by redtictiuns. ** Af*l*
lon^ warn," says Marnumt (tonic vil. p. 74), " tho num< b<r> of n^jn<*nts htvo biromii thalr nain<*it to which romornbnuiccs of ao-quircd ^lory bticom sittarhw, and to tako thinn away was to gratuitously wound iioh'U* and l>xitnuto w^ntimonts. Tho first <ot of Napoleon, aflof his rrllurn during tlut *Writ Jottwt*, wan to rostore to ev«ry corps its lost former ttumber."